

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A blade driving device for use in cameras, the blade driving device comprising:

a mechanical blade openably and closably disposed in front of an image pickup element, the mechanical blade being operable to block a part or all of light passing through an exposure aperture or to reduce light passing therethrough;

an electromagnetic actuator being operable to enable the mechanical blade to perform an opening motion according to opening energization and to enable the mechanical blade to perform a closing motion according to closing energization; and

a control means for drive-controlling the electromagnetic actuator and applying opening energization and closing energization to the electromagnetic actuator so as to allow the mechanical blade to perform an opening motion to move into an opened state when turning on an electric-power supply in order to set a photographable standby state in which a dynamic image and a still image are photographable, and to first perform an opening motion when a releasing operation is performed, and then to perform a closing motion for completion of a photograph.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) The blade driving device for use in cameras as set forth in Claim 1, wherein the mechanical blade is a shutter blade that opens and closes the exposure aperture.

4. (Currently Amended) The blade driving device for use in cameras as set forth in Claim 1, wherein the mechanical blade is a diaphragm blade that ~~steps-down~~ is operable to close the exposure aperture to a predetermined aperture diameter.

5. (Currently Amended) The blade driving device for use in cameras as set forth in Claim 1, wherein the mechanical blade is an ND filter blade that reduces an amount of light passing through the exposure aperture to a predetermined level.

6. (Currently Amended) The blade driving device for use in cameras as set forth in Claim 1, wherein:

the control means applies opening energization to the electromagnetic actuator so as to allow the mechanical blade to perform an opening motion when an amount of light incident on the image pickup element becomes equal to or less than a predetermined level in the photographable standby state.

7. (Currently Amended) The blade driving device for use in cameras as set forth in Claim 6, wherein the mechanical blade is a shutter blade that opens and closes the exposure aperture.

8. (Currently Amended) The blade driving device for use in cameras as set forth in Claim 6, wherein the mechanical blade is a diaphragm blade that stops down-is operable to close the exposure aperture to a predetermined aperture diameter.

9. (Currently Amended) The blade driving device for use in cameras as set forth in Claim 6, wherein the mechanical blade is an ND filter blade that reduces an amount of light passing through the exposure aperture to a predetermined level.

10. (Currently Amended) The blade driving device for use in cameras as set forth in Claim 1, wherein:

the control means applies opening energization to the electromagnetic actuator so as to allow the mechanical blade to perform an opening motion when a signal exceeding a predetermined level is output from a shock sensor used to detect an impulsive force in the photographable standby state.

11. (Currently Amended) The blade driving device for use in cameras as set forth in Claim 10, wherein the mechanical blade is a shutter blade that opens and closes the exposure aperture.

12. **(Currently Amended)** The blade driving device for use in cameras as set forth in Claim 10, wherein the mechanical blade is a diaphragm blade that is operable to close ~~stops down~~ the exposure aperture to a predetermined aperture diameter.

13. **(Currently Amended)** The blade driving device for use in cameras as set forth in Claim 10, wherein the mechanical blade is an ND filter blade that reduces an amount of light passing through the exposure aperture to a predetermined level.